

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

-----:  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : CASE NO. 5:05 CR 131-23  
: :  
Plaintiff :  
: :  
-vs- :  
: :  
BRANDEN ELKINS : ORDER ACCEPTING PLEA AGREEMENT  
: AND JUDGMENT AND NOTICE OF  
: HEARING  
Defendant :  
-----:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE LESLEY WELLS

This case is before the Court on a Report and Recommendation filed by United States Magistrate Judge William H. Baughman, Jr. regarding the change of plea hearing and plea agreement of Branden Elkins which was referred to the Magistrate Judge with the consent of the parties.

On 16 March 2005, the government filed a one-count indictment against Branden Elkins for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and distribution of a controlled substance in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846. On 29 June 2005, a hearing was held in which Branden Elkins entered a plea of not guilty before Magistrate Judge David S. Perelman. On 21 September 2006, Magistrate Judge Baughman received Branden Elkins's plea of guilty and issued a Report and Recommendation ("R&R") concerning whether the plea should be accepted and a finding of guilty entered

Neither party submitted objections to the Magistrate Judge's R&R in the ten days after it was issued.

On de novo review of the record, the Magistrate Judge's R&R is adopted. Branden Elkins is found to be competent to enter a plea. He understands his constitutional rights. He is aware of the charges and of the consequences of entering a plea. There is an adequate factual basis for the plea. The Court finds the plea was entered knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily. The plea agreement is approved.

Therefore, Branden Elkins is adjudged guilty of Count One in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846.

Sentencing will be:

**9 January 2007 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Courtroom 19-A  
19th Floor the United States District Court  
801 West Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113**

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Lesley Wells  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Dated: 17 October 2006